

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 FEA-02 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FMC-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00

COA-02 DLOS-06 INT-08 L-03 STR-08 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03

SAM-01 SS-20 DRC-01 CIEP-02 H-03 /139 W

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R 250940Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1315

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 2149

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, RP

SUBJECT: BUNKER FUEL FOR US FLAG VESSELS

REF: A. STATE 031462

B. MANILA 1175

C. MANILA 1284

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES THERE IS LITTLE POSSIBILITY THAT EEC EMBASSIES (EXCEPT FOR WEST GERMANY) WOULD JOIN US IN JOINT APPROACH TO GOP RE RECIPROCITY IN PROVISION OF BUNKER FUEL. AT FOLLOW-UP MEETING FEB 7, REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNTRIES WHICH HAD ATTENDED JAN 26 MEETING (PARA 5 REF B), PLUS ITALY, CONCLUDED THAT BECAUSE GOP BUNKERING RESTRICTIONS HAD NOT CAUSED PROBLEMS FOR THEIR VESSELS AND BECAUSE IN THEIR OPINION PHILIPPINES WAS EXPERIENCING SIGNIFICANT DEFICIT IN PETROLEUM SUPPLIES, LITTLE WOULD BE GAINED BY FORMAL APPROACH TO GOP.

2. WEST GERMANY, HOWEVER, HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN
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MAKING FORMAL APPROACH BECAUSE OF GOP'S FAILURE TO APPROVE

BUNKERS FOR W. GERMAN VESSELS ON BASIS GERMANS FEEL WAS
VERBALLY AGREED ON BASIS OF THEIR JAN 14 LETTER (REF C).
SHIP FOR WHICH THEY ASKED 200 TONS WAS GIVEN 56 TONS,
I.E. AMOUNT AUTHORIZED BY REGULATIONS. SHIP LEFT PORT
WITHOUT BUNKERING. W. GERMAN EMBASSY WILL REPORT INCIDENT
TO BONN AND ADVISE THAT GOP IS DISCRIMINATING AGAINST
FOREIGN FLAG VESSELS. W. GERMAN ECONOMIC COUNSELOR SAID
HE BELIEVES HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE WILLING TO SUPPORT US
APPROACH TO GOP.

3. EMBASSY CLOSELY MONITORING NEW CASE OF SS
GENEVIEVE LYKES WHICH ARRIVED MANILA FEB 25. SHIP SOUGHT
765 TONS BUNKERS BUT WAS ALLOTTED ONLY 511 BY PHILIPPINE
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS. FAILURE TO OBTAIN FULL REQUEST MEANT
SHIP WOULD NOT HAVE SAFETY FACTOR WHEN DEPARTING FOR NEW
ORLEANS. TO MEET THIS PROBLEM, LYKES ARRANGED PICK UP
BUNKERS IN BANGKOK. AGENTS HAVE REVISED APPLICATION
TO GOP TO INCLUDE BUNKERS FROM BANGKOK AS REQUIRED BY
PHILIPPINE REGULATIONS. IT POSSIBLE AMOUNT AUTHORIZED
WILL BE REDUCED ACCORDINGLY BY BUREAU OF CUSTOMS, THUS
AGAIN ELIMINATING SAFETY
FACTOR. VESSEL WOULD
THEN BE FORCED TO MAKE UNSCHEDULED STOP BEFORE NEW ORLEANS.
COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED: AGENTS FOR LYKES CONCERNED
THAT FAILURE TO HAVE SAFETY FACTOR VIOLATES U.S. COAST
GUARD REGULATIONS AS WELL AS TERMS OF MARITIME INSURANCE
CONTRACT. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT ADVICE AS TO
U.S. COAST GUARD SAFETY FACTOR REQUIREMENTS. ALSO
WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MARITIME INSURANCE RULES FOR
SAFETY FACTOR FOR POSSIBLE USE IN APPROACH TO GOP.
SULLIVAN

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